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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 09/747,400
Filing Date: December 22, 2000
Appellant(s): RADTKE ET AL.

Jodi L. Hartman
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 7/30/04.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Invention

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Issues

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) Grouping of Claims

Appellant's brief includes a statement that claims 1-12 stand separately but does not set forth reasons.

(8) Claims Appealed

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) Prior Art of Record

4,899,276	STADLER	2-1990
4,646,250	CHILDRESS	2-1987

5,736,984 JELLINEK ET AL. 4-1998

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 4, 899, 276 (Stadler).

Referring to claims 1 and 7, Stadler discloses providing a plurality of data fields amongst these fields, there being a first data field and a second data field, wherein the user would be in a first data field and the next field the user would move to would be the second data field (column 1, lines 21-24 and column 3, line 17). Stadler discloses being in a first data field, thereby bringing focus to that first field, that being the current data field that the user is entering data onto and in response to focusing on the first field, displaying a first static information tip proximate to the first data field (column 2, lines 33-37). Stadler then further discusses moving onto the next field, thereby focusing on the second data field, wherein once the user has finished inputting data into the first field, and has pressed "ENTER", the focus is brought to the second data field and the first static information tip is hidden from view (column 3, lines 17-20 and lines 61-65). Stadler also discloses repeating the same steps as was the case for the first field once the user has moved onto the second data field, wherein this suggests, as was the case for the first

data field, bringing focus to that second field, that being the current data field that the user is entering data onto and in response to focusing on the second and current field, displaying static information tip proximate to the second data field, wherein the tip would be associated with the data in the second data field (column 3, lines 17-18 and column 2, lines 33-37). Stadler discloses that the first static tip does not interrupt data input into the first data field (column 3, lines 55-58) and whereby the first information tip remains displayed until the step of focusing on the second data field, the step being pressing "ENTER", which would move the cursor and focus from the first data field to the subsequent second data field (column 3, lines 61-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stadler as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,646,250 (Childress) and U. S. Patent No. 5,736,984 (Jellinek et al).

Referring to claims 2 and 8, Stadler does disclose entering data in the first data field (column 3, line 17). Stadler does not disclose means for detecting or handling errors within these fields, as recited in the claims. Childress discloses determining that the data entered into the first field is erroneous and having a means to place error markers adjacent to the first data field, where the errors are found, thereby bringing focus to the first data (column 2, lines 13-20 and lines 37-39). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to

learn from Childress to implement a means for detecting and bringing focus to the first data field that as the erroneous input. Stadler has means for allowing users to input data but as is common with data entry, erroneous data inputs are inevitable. There is no means in Stadler's disclosure for detecting these errors, which would inevitable in any data entry system. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, would have been motivated to learn from Childress to implement error detection and highlighting means.

Stadler and Childress do not provide means for displaying a third static information tip proximate to the first data field, as recited in the claims. Jellinek discloses providing tips proximate to the data field, the tip providing means for correcting the errors detected, with the third static information tip not interrupting the corrective data input into the data field (Figure 7 and column 7, lines 36-40). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Jellinek to implement a means for providing a third static tip information for the data field wherein an error was detected. Stadler and Childress do have the means for detecting errors but provides no tip information to correct this error, thereby causing confusion for users who may not know how to fix the errors. As clearly stated in Jellinek, the disclosure states how this invention clearly teaches means for displaying a message to fix the error without being intrusive and wherein the users would simply follow this third static tip to correct the errors. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, would have been motivated to learn from Jellinek to implement a means for providing a static third information tip which would not be obtrusive to the data field.

Referring to claims 3 and 9, Stadler, Childress and Jellinek discloses moving to a second data field and repeating the same process for manipulating this data field (Stadler, column 3,

lines 17-18), wherein these steps include the steps recited in claim 2, in reference to the detection and the displaying of error tip information for the second data field.

Referring to claims 4, 5, 10 and 11, Stadler, Childress and Jellinek disclose displaying an error marker proximate to the first and second data fields, and included in all data fields with erroneous data fields (Childress, column 2, lines 37-40).

Referring to claims 6 and 12, Stadler discloses focusing all a first data field, and in response to focusing on the first data field, wherein a first static information tip proximate to the first data field (column 2, lines 39-41). Stadler also discloses entering data in the first data field while continuing to display the first static information tip (column 3, lines 61-64). Stadler also discloses moving onto another data field from the first data field, that wherein once the "ENTER" has pressed to move onto the next field, the first static information tip would be hidden from view (column 3, lines 63-65). Stadler does not disclose means for detecting or handling errors within these fields, as recited in the claims. Childress discloses determining that the data entered into the first field is erroneous and having a means to place error markers adjacent to the first data field, where the errors are found, thereby bringing focus to the first data (column 2, lines 13-20 and lines 37-39). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Childress to implement a means for detecting and bringing focus to the first data field that as the erroneous input. Stadler has means for allowing users to input data but as is common with data entry, erroneous data inputs are inevitable. There is no means in Stadler's disclosure for detecting these errors, which would inevitable in any data entry system. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, would have been motivated to learn from Childress to implement error detection and highlighting means.

Stadler and Childress do not provide means for displaying a second static information tip proximate to the first data field, as recited in the claims. Jellinek discloses providing tips proximate to the data field, the tip providing means for correcting the errors detected, with the second static information tip not interrupting the corrective data input into the data field (Figure 7 and column 7, lines 36-40). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Jellinek to implement a means for providing second static tip information for the data field wherein an error was detected. Stadler and Childress do have the means for detecting errors but provides no tip information to correct this error, thereby causing confusion for users who may not know how to fix the errors. As clearly stated in Jellinek, the disclosure states how this invention clearly teaches means for displaying a message to fix the error without being intrusive and wherein the users would simply follow this second static tip to correct the errors. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, would have been motivated to learn from Jellinek to implement a means for providing a static third information tip which would not be obtrusive to the data field.

(11) Response to Argument

Rejections of Claims 1 and 7

With respect to Applicant's arguments that Stadler does not teach performing a one step of focusing on the data field to display a static information tip. The claim language of the present claims uses the term "comprising", which does not disclose absolute language that is used in disclosing features in the present invention. In such cases, any additional steps that are included in the prior art are not precluded as, the prior art, regardless of a second step, nonetheless does teach placing the cursor in a field bringing focus on the data field to display a

window providing an explanation directed to the field in which the cursor is located. Stadler, as stated in the rejections, does disclose focusing on the data field, wherein when the user brings attention to a field by pointing to it, therein focusing on a data field. Stadler further teaches that in response to this focusing, displaying tip information in relation to this field. Regardless of if there is a further step, the process of focusing on a data field, and in response to this focusing, a display of tip information is disclosed in Stadler. Additionally, claim language used in the present claims including the use of the term "comprising" which allows that additional steps that are included are not precluded.

Rejections of Claims 2-6 and 8-12

With respect to Applicant's arguments that Stadler does not teach performing a one step of focusing on the data field to display a static information tip. The claim language of the present claims uses the term "comprising", which does not disclose absolute language that is used in disclosing features in the present invention. In such cases, any additional steps that are included in the prior art are not precluded as, the prior art, regardless of a second step, nonetheless does teach placing the cursor in a field bringing focus on the data field to display a window providing an explanation directed to the field in which the cursor is located. Stadler, as stated in the rejections, does disclose focusing on the data field, wherein when the user brings attention to a field by pointing to it, therein focusing on a data field. Stadler further teaches that in response to this focusing, displaying tip information in relation to this field. Regardless of if there is a further step, the process of focusing on a data field, and in response to this focusing, a display of tip information is disclosed in Stadler. Additionally, claim language used in the present claims including the use of the term "comprising" which allows that additional steps that

are included are not precluded. Furthermore, Childress and Jellinek does disclose similar inventions, wherein both disclose features including displaying tip data in response to the user focusing on a user field, wherein both Childress and Jellinek further teaches modified features not explicitly taught in Stadler. As for the main feature, concerned in the arguments, which includes in response to focusing on the first data field, displaying tip data, this feature as discussed above is taught in Stadler.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 1, 2005

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